



**Economic Commission for Africa  
Southern Africa Office**

# **Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for Southern Africa:**

Report of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Lilongwe, Malawi  
24 – 25 March 2010





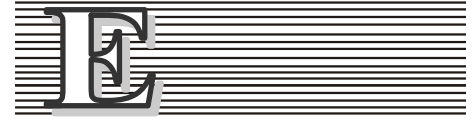
**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
SOUTHERN AFRICA OFFICE**

**24 – 25 March 2010**

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**Sixteenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee  
of Experts for Southern Africa (ICE)**

**Lilongwe, Malawi**



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## INTRODUCTION

The sub regional office for Southern Africa, which is based in Lusaka, Zambia, derives its programmatic direction and guidance from its Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) constituted by Commission Resolution 826 (XXXII) of May 1977 and General Assembly Resolution 40/243 to provide a forum for engaging with member States on policy and programme related matters. The ICE-Southern Africa meets annually to oversee the overall formulation and implementation of the programme of work and priorities of Southern African member States and make recommendations on important development issues confronting the sub region.

The sixteenth ICE meeting held from 24th – 25th March 2010 in Lilongwe, Malawi was organized under the theme: “Responses to the Impacts of the Global Financial and Economic Crises in Southern Africa” with the objective of taking stock of the sub region’s responses to the receding global financial and economic crises, share experiences and strategies and then devise measures to inoculate Southern Africa from similar future external shocks.

The outcome of the 16th ICE meeting is highlighted below.

### **Responses to the Impacts of the Global Financial and Economic Crises in Southern Africa**

#### **Policy Brief (March 2010)**

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#### **Background**

In the light of the majority of African countries low integration into global financial markets, it was initially believed by many observers that the impacts of the global financial and economic crisis were likely to be minimal on African economies. Today we know that they were mistaken because the financial crisis developed into a full-blown economic crisis that spread to all corners of the globe – including Southern Africa. Beginning July 2008, notable impacts such as weakened demand for Southern African exports, particularly oil and minerals, have resulted in lower GDP growth; calling into question the sustainability of positive trade balances achieved over the past five years. The likelihood of sustaining past gains is especially doubtful given the lack of diversification in Southern African exports.

Other short-term effects of the crisis include adverse macroeconomic conditions such as the dramatic drop in the sub-region’s growth rate from 5.2% in 2008 to -7.2% in 2009, a general retreat from lending, borrowing and long-term investment, worsened fiscal balance, lower export revenues, higher rates of inflation and reduced domestic savings.

With regard to poverty and social development, medium and long-term effects include lower growth of household income resulting from rising unemployment and reductions in remittances from Africans in the Diaspora. The global financial and economic downturn has compounded existing challenges of drought, flooding and climate change for Southern African. In addition, the food security situation remains fraught as food prices are still high when compared with trends in the past five years. Underinvestment in areas such as water infrastructure was exacerbated and will likely result in stalled progress towards achieving the MDGs for water supply and sanitation, poverty reduction, hunger reduction and access to energy, including gender equality.

On the employment front, over 345,000 jobs were lost in the region as a result of mineral development projects that were suspended or scrapped owing to difficulties in raising capital; compounding the existing unemployment situation. Mineral-exporting countries experienced greatly reduced government revenues, which limited capacity to finance social spending in the short term.

However, the good news is that mining output has begun to recover as struggling mines have returned to profitability and others have reopened. In Zambia, the mining and quarrying sector grew by 15.8 % and in South Africa the value of sales of copper and nickel grew by 13.7 and 9.0 % 2009 respectively.

#### **KEY CHALLENGES FOR THE SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM**

It is as yet impossible to tell the depth and duration of the resulting effects of the crisis on various economic sectors and the development agenda in general. The relevance and appropriateness of current efforts on financial and monetary integration on future dynamics of financial and economic systems also remains unclear. Similarly, whether proposed economic governance reforms and on-going international trade negotiations will address the structural

causes underlying the crisis and prevent future crises is a matter of debate. The lack of credible data and monitoring tools further compound these issues, making it a daunting task to predict impacts with certainty or provide an early warning to policy makers of looming crises.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Member States and RECs

- to explore innovative ways to mobilise domestic resources for development in order to avoid an over-reliance on foreign aid and other more costly sources of funding;
- to intensify their economic diversification efforts to reduce vulnerability against external shocks or commodity price volatility;
- to redouble efforts aimed at developing intra-regional trade and deepening regional integration;
- not to withdraw social safety nets for the poor and to explore innovative ways in which to extend social protection to those who lost their jobs as a result of the crises;
- to continue to strengthen their financial sector regulation and supervision, and bolster their capacity to enhance their resilience against external shocks;

### B. International and Development Finance Institutions

- to increase funding for regional infrastructure development necessary to create inter-country links to facilitate trade and thus help bridge the existing gap in the infrastructure financing;

### C. International Community

- Developed countries and development partners urged to address structural imbalances in the global economic architecture, including the need to give the African continent a voice in matters of the governance of International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

## Conclusion

The success in economic turnaround in Southern Africa lies in a multi-prong approach requiring capacity building, data generation, monitoring tools and studies to

inform policy decision, and application of stringent financial regulatory and supervisory measures.

## SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDING OF THE 16TH ICE MEETING

### A. Attendance

1. Representatives from Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Zambia attended the meeting. In addition representatives from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern African Development Community (SADC), African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union-Southern African Regional Office (AU-SARO), Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (SADC-CNGO), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Labour Organization (ILO), Cross-Border Traders Association, and Bank of Zambia also attended.

### B. Opening of the meeting (Agenda item 1)

2. Ms. Jennifer Kargbo, the Director: UN Economic Commission for Africa, Southern Africa Office (UNECA-SA) welcomed all delegates on behalf of the UNECA's Executive Secretary, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, and thanked the Government of the Republic of Malawi for hosting the 16th ICE meeting for Southern Africa. She underlined the importance of this meeting, noting that it was taking place just before the joint UNECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference (AUC) of Ministers of Economy and Finance whose theme was: *Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa*. She stated that the two events were reinforcing each other in many respects, including through their search for pragmatic solutions to Africa's challenges stemming from the recent global economic crisis.
3. Against this backdrop, the Director said that the theme for the 2010 ICE – *Responses to the*

*Global Financial and Economic Crises in Southern Africa* was chosen to resonate with regional efforts to offset the effects of the global financial and economic crises to ensure sustainable growth. She invited the Committee to critically analyze the countries' responses and to offer suggestions to hone these responses for more effectiveness.

4. The Director reminded the participants that the ICE provides a mandate for the SRO-SA to focus on regional priorities for the years ahead. Thus, the UNECA-SA regards the annual ICE as an important platform for renewing its mandate with member States.

5. On the work programme of the UNECA-SA, the Director requested the experts to consider the report of the UNECA-SA on its work during the biennium 2008-2009. The results contained in that report were evaluated against the 2008-2009 Strategic Framework. The challenges and lessons learned during the period are tabulated in the same report. The report therefore provides a basis for member States to evaluate the relevance and performance of the work of UNECA-SA.

6. In conclusion, the Director drew the participants' attention to the regional gender Monitoring Tool developed jointly by the UNECA-SA and the SADC Secretariat in 2009 to monitor progress on the implementation of the 2008 SADC Gender and Development. The tool is designed for use by various stakeholders to track progress by member States in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

7. Speaking on behalf of the Zambian Government, Ms. Chisala Kauta, the outgoing ICE chairperson, thanked the member States, the ECA and other stakeholders for the confidence and support bestowed upon her Government last year. She said that her Government was honoured to have served the member States and guided the ICE to achieve key milestones. In particular, she expressed satisfaction on the ICE's strengthened collaborative framework for deepening regional integration.

8. In this regard, she recalled the 15th session's decision requesting the Secretariat to advance the work on domestic resource mobilization. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the DBSA are now preparing an in-depth regional study on domestic resource mobilization whose findings will feed into,

inter alia, innovative regional policy interventions for raising domestic resources for development. She further noted the study's timeliness in view of the recent global economic crisis, which jolted the sub-region to rethink its over-reliance on foreign funding for development

9. In her concluding remarks, Ms. Kauta said that in carrying her mandate as the chairperson of the previous bureau, she had been guided by the Policy Brief of 2009, which many participants had also found useful to their own work. She thanked the incoming chairperson, the Malawi Government, for hosting the 2010 ICE meeting and expressed her pleasure in passing the baton of the ICE Chair to a colleague and a friend. She pledged her Government's continued support and cooperation to the incoming bureau. Finally, she thanked the Director of UNECA-SA, Ms Jennifer Kargbo, and her staff for their support.

10. Dr. Salif Sall, the AU-SARO Representative extended the greetings from H.E. Jean Ping, the chairman of the AUC to the Committee, as well as his commitment to advance the goals of regional integration in Africa. He recalled that the financial crisis occurred while African countries were registering good economic and governance performance, noting that the crisis' effects are still present and high in Africa despite its low integration to the global economy.

11. The AU representative highlighted measures taken by countries to address the effects of the economic slowdown. He recalled the outcomes of the AU, AfDB and ECA meeting held in Tunis in November 2008, which called for enhanced domestic resources mobilization and economic diversification efforts to mitigate the effect of the global financial crisis. He stressed the need for countries to adopt a systematic, innovative and participative approach in facing the crisis, and to ensure that the crisis has no lasting adverse effect on the sub region's regional integration agenda.

12. He thanked the UNECA-SA for giving him the opportunity to participate in the ICE meeting. He assured the meeting of the AU-SARO's full support in implementing the UNECA-SA's work programme.

13. The Honourable Mr. Abbie Marambika Shawa, MP, Minister of Development Planning



and Cooperation, Republic of Malawi—host of the 16th ICE meeting welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Malawi. He also thanked the UNECA-SA for honouring the Malawian Government with the task of hosting the meeting. He noted that the recent global economic crisis was the single most significant hurdle that Southern Africa has had overcome in the last 3 years, with its legacy likely to linger longer still.

14. The Minister nonetheless took comfort in noting that despite the sub-region's challenges there is hope for member States as the worst of the crisis is now gone. He observed that the economies of industrialized countries are rebounding – a recovery that augurs well for Africa's exports. He further noted that the sub-region's largest economy, South Africa, has started to grow following its worst recession in 17 years.

15. In closing, the Minister said that the global financial and economic crises have conveyed two clear messages — first, the need for the sub-region to expedite the process of regional integration to cope better or even evade future external shocks. And, second, there is need to improve regulation and supervision of financial systems to prevent any future economic instability from the financial sector. In putting these precautionary measures in motion, the sub-region should move away from business-as-usual in doing things so that it can change for the better.

**C. Account of Proceedings, Election of the Bureau, Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work (Agenda Item 2)**

16. The meeting elected the following countries to constitute the bureau:

- Chair: Malawi
- Vice Chair: Namibia
- Rapporteur: Lesotho

17. The meeting unanimously adopted the proposed agenda as follows:

1. Election of the bureau and Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
2. Presentation of the report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa for 2009: *“Responses to the Impacts of the Global Financial*

*and Economic Crises in Southern Africa”*

3. Panel Discussions on the theme of the meeting: The impacts of the Global Financial and Economic Crises in Southern Africa
4. Discussants and discussions
5. Presentation and discussions on the progress report on regional and international agendas: Regional Gender Monitoring Tool and Protocols: Budgetary and Planning Implications for Implementation of the Tool
6. Presentations and discussion on the programme performance of ECA in Southern Africa and at the ECA-HQ
7. Presentation of key recommendations from the AEGM based on a study report on the cost-benefit analysis of regional integration in Southern Africa
8. Presentations and discussions by ECA Cooperating Partners
9. Any Other Business
10. Date and venue of the next meeting
11. Adoption of the Report
12. Closing of the meeting

**Review of the Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa in 2009 (Agenda item 3)**

18. The Secretariat presented the Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa (E/UNECA-SA/ICE.XVI/2010/7), consisting of three main areas: (i) a review of the channels through which the global crisis have been transmitted onto Southern African economies; (ii) a preliminary evaluation of the effects of the crisis on the economy of the sub region; and (iii) a set of suggestions regarding policy responses that the member States and regional banks may want to consider; as well as an examination of the lessons learnt and lingering challenges.

19. Although it was initially thought that the crisis would have a limited impact in the sub-region, such an impact has proven deeper and its legacy likely to last longer. The crisis affected the sub region's countries differently, and with varying degrees of intensity. Nonetheless, the end results are well known: (i) a sharply reduced global demand for the sub region's exports, (ii) the rising joblessness as suppressed global demand cut economic activity, (iii) the ebbing of investment, remittance, and aid inflows, (iv) the difficulties

in financing budget gaps from donors and local markets leading to a surge in external public debts, (v) lower foreign exchange reserves as exports volume and values dived, and (vi) the lending and investment decisions that are held in abeyance as investors hang on to cash as a precautionary measure.

20. The sound economic policies of recent years, a favourable external environment, and more aid and debt relief, had improved the debt environment in Southern Africa however. The expanded fiscal space enabled member States to raise fiscal deficits to somewhat offset the effects of the crises. As a result there has been a slight deterioration from 8¼ per cent of GDP in 2008 to 10 per cent of GDP in 2009, and the normally low indebted countries (e.g. Botswana) saw a ballooning in external debt as they strive to maintain constant the levels of social and capital spending.
21. On the medium and long-term effects on poverty and social development, it is early yet to assess the impact of the financial crisis. The anecdotal evidence however points to reduced incomes stemming from job losses, reduced remittances, the drying up of aid flows, and stagnation in public spending on social services and infrastructure. Although the food prices are currently at lower levels, they remain higher compared to the trends of the last five years, hitting the poor more.
22. A full assessment of the impact of the crisis on social development (health, education, etc.) outcomes is still to be done as uncertainty remains as to the depth and intensity of the crisis on the social sectors. The crisis probably resulted in reduced expenditure in these sectors. In fact,, in some countries like Angola, public spending in the social sectors declined from 12.0 per cent in 2007 to 9.2 per cent of GDP in 2008, triggered by a falling national revenue. Furthermore, the global financial crisis has frustrated the sub region's intentions to allocate a minimum of 15 per cent of their national budgets to health as per the 2001 Abuja Declaration.
23. The Committee noted that given that most Southern African economies are mineral exporters, many were indeed adversely affected. Overall, about 346,681 jobs were lost in the sub region, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa and Zambia. A number of mineral development projects were suspended or scrapped owing to difficulties in raising capital, compounding the existing chronic unemployment situation. Mineral-exporting SADC countries suffered greatly reduced government revenues, thus constricting the space for social spending. However, the good news is that as the commodity prices have started to rebound the mining output has begun to recover as struggling mines return to profitability and other mines reopen. In Zambia, the mining and quarrying sector is estimated to have grown by 15.8 per cent. In South Africa, the value of sales of copper and nickel grew by 13.7 per cent and 9.0 per cent, respectively, in 2009.
24. The Committee noted that the governments' timely and appropriate responses to the crises have come with a challenge: how to wind down the stimulus measures before they threaten the hard-earned macroeconomic stability. At some point countries that have gone into debt to cope with the crises should steel themselves for a belt-tightening era ahead. Countries will face pressures to jettison the accommodative fiscal and monetary policies. And if this process is not properly managed, the promising recovery could be aborted.
25. In further welcoming the report, the participants agreed with the findings that the crises affected countries in different ways, including currency depreciation, reduced revenue from external trade. As a results job losses indeed did increase, investment in strategic sectors did dip, remittances did decline, and budget gaps did widen.
26. The participants however expressed their appreciation at countries' efforts to deal with the effects of the crises, and that these efforts should help member States rebound a lot sooner from the slowdown. The rebound process would benefit vastly if the pace of regional integration was quickened, and if member States pay more attention to intensifying infrastructure development to harness huge potential of intra-African trade. Furthermore, member States should continue with their ongoing economic reforms that stressed financial discipline and general macroeconomic stability that had put the region in good stead during the crises.

27. The countries' recovery efforts should also be underpinned by supportive actions of the development partners, including their honouring obligations for scaled up aid flows to Africa. Development partners should further continue to supply aid through direct budget support rather than through projects. This is aligned with donors' undertaking to strengthen recipient countries' budget and planning systems and in sync with the recipient countries' priorities as well.

28. While acknowledging that the report is accurate in its assessment, a number of participants suggested further improvements on the analytical tools. They therefore requested the ECA to take a lead in developing better forecasting tools to inform economic policy.

#### **Panel Discussions on Policy Responses to the Impacts of the Global Financial and Economic Crises in Southern Africa (Agenda item 4)**

29. The panel discussion on the theme examined further the policy adjustments that the member States have made to address the effects of the crises, as well as the response by sub-regional, continental and international development partners. The discussants provided varied experiences from their institutions' viewpoints and mandates. The views from the Bank of Zambia, the ILO-Zambia study on the impact of the crises on the tourism and mining sectors, the DBSA, the AfDB, and the IMF further highlighted the impact and the responses. They all shared the same general observations regarding the nature and extent of the crises' impact on Southern Africa.

30. The representative of the Bank of Zambia, Ms. Chisala Kauta, described the sequence of impacts on the Zambian economy and the Government's initial policy responses. She noted that the immediate impact of the crisis was the rapid depreciation of the exchange rate of the Kwacha against major global currencies, adverse movements of the Lusaka Stock Exchange all share index, higher inflation, rising yield rates on government securities and interbank rates, and the negative impact on the real economy, notably the shrinking activities in the mining and tourism sectors.

31. In response to the global financial and economic

crises, the Bank of Zambia implemented an array of measures aimed at improving the information flow in the financial and capital markets, and strengthened its collaboration with other regulators to avoid more severe adverse effects of the crisis. Additionally, the Government of Zambia intensified its ongoing efforts to maintain macroeconomic stability, and also encouraged investments to help diversify the economy, particularly in agriculture, tourism and manufacturing sectors. Finally, the government strived to safeguard the provision of vital social services.

32. Ms. Belinda Chanda, the representative of International Labour Organization (ILO), presented the findings and recommendations of an ILO study on the impact of the global economic crisis on the mining and tourism sectors in Zambia. The crisis has hit these sectors particularly hard, leading to job losses, and increased casualization. The ILO continues however to urge countries to explore job-creating alternatives, expand social protection mechanisms, develop stimulus packages along the lines recommended by ILO Global Jobs Pact, and strengthen capacities for labour administrations. The casualization of labour as an employment practice undermines the 'decent work for all' programme promoted by the ILO.

33. The representative of the DBSA, Ms. Leyya Kalla, presented an overview of the institution's objectives and funding focus. Within the SADC (excluding South Africa) the DBSA support is highest in Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania. The energy sector attracts the highest support (33.4%), followed by telecommunications (12.7%) and mining (11.6%). The DBSA's analysis of the effects of the economic crisis on Southern Africa echoed those of the Report on Economic and Social Conditions presented by the Secretariat.

34. The DBSA is boosting the development financing for priority infrastructure projects substantially in relatively recession-proof sectors such as education and health, while also increasing its technical support and grant assistance for project development. The Bank's response to the crises includes moves to develop smart partnerships with development financing institutions

(DFIs) and its collaboration in the establishment of the African Financing Partnership.

35. The DBSA foresees long term financing, developing capital markets, proactive climate change initiatives, strategic partnerships with other financiers and the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China), and technical assistance, project preparation and capacity building as comprising the 5 key areas for infrastructure development in the region post the crisis. The DBSA faces various challenges in carrying out its role as a DFI in the sub-region, and hence a need for individual countries to work collectively to address the deeper impacts of the crisis.

36. The African Development Bank (AfDB) country representative in Malawi, Mr. S.F. Kufakwandi, presented the organization's business profile and its responses to the financial crisis in Southern Africa. The crisis is risking Africa's gains over the recent past and may lead to a vicious circle of economic financial and social crises. As a response to the crises the AfDB underwent internal readjustments to cope better with the countries' demands for its support, as well as enhanced its collaboration with other DFIs to boost the capital base of the bank. The bank's lending to regional member States increased markedly from 2008 to 2009. The bank is also constantly gauging the countries' expectations in order to adapt its services to their needs. Accordingly, it is fast tracking its support to needy countries, keeping trade flows moving, providing liquidity to commercial banks, helping the region stay the course of sound policy framework, and filling in the gaps in the infrastructural sector. The bank is also introducing different facilities through which it can help the countries to mitigate the effects of the crisis.

37. The IMF country representative in Malawi, Mr. Maitland McFarlan, highlighted the activities of the Fund in Africa and its effort to support African countries to mitigate the effects of the global economic and financial crises noting that this support has been vastly expanded to meet the special needs of the least developed countries (LDCs). The Fund's response encompasses financial support and technical assistance to these countries. Another response was the redesign of lending instruments to LDCs, including introducing flexibility in its lending, extended credit facilities, introduced standby facilities, and rapid credit facility, and policy sup-

port instruments to increase their access to concessional financing. Macroeconomic design, including enhancing scope for counter-cyclical policies within countries with built-in protective measures targeted at vulnerable groups and for maintaining social spending, was also a major response mechanism.

38. The Committee was encouraged by the responses of member States and the DFIs to address the impact of the crises. It made a number of suggestions to address the long term impact of the crises including: the greater focus by the Bank to support infrastructure development, including regional infrastructure; enhanced flexibility in IMF lending policies; intensification of domestic resource mobilization, including pursuing pension funds as a possible significant source of domestic financing; sustaining good macroeconomic and fiscal practices; accelerate the regional integration process, including the macroeconomic convergence; and putting in place adequate social protection measures.

39. The social protection measures should address issues related to job losses that accompany economic crises, including fostering entrepreneurship and re-skilling programmes. In this context, it was also noted that member States' efforts to address social protection concerns around the economic crisis could be incorporated into the on-going work on the SADC Human Development Report in order to assist in charting a way forward on this issue.

40. A related issue pertains to limiting the public domestic borrowing to improve private sector credit access. Instead governments should look at other alternatives such as an enhanced domestic resources mobilization, including improved tax collection and administration, and better harnessing of natural resources.

**Presentations and discussions on the progress report on regional and international agendas: Regional Gender Monitoring Tool and Protocols – Planning and Budgetary Implications (Agenda item 5)**

41. The UNECA-SA Secretariat presented the Report on the Regional Gender Monitoring Tool

and Protocols – Planning and Budgetary (SGDMT), which is a monitoring and evaluation instrument that the SADC Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs adopted in October 2009. The tool is designed to assist member States assess progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in the SADC region. The SGDMT is an instrument intended to facilitate the effective implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The tool uses the quantitative and qualitative indices to determine the status and progression of each member State towards attainment of the targets within the stipulated time frame.

42. The SGDMT's two components are: the SADC Gender Conditions Indicator depicting the member States' gender equality situation at a defined point in time, and the SADC Women's Progress Scoreboard, a process indicator depicting various qualitative aspects of the gender equality and women's empowerment. Since using the tool has policy, planning and budgetary implications for SADC member States, there is need for expansion of the policy mandate of engendering various development sectors beyond the national gender machineries. Furthermore, member States are urged to commit financial and other resources towards a process of aligning and engendering national policies as well as towards monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the protocol.

43. In the ensuing discussion, the meeting noted the efforts that the member States are making towards improved monitoring of progress on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Committee saluted Namibia for undertaking a gender analysis study in the National Planning Commission on gender budgeting and sensitization of key policy makers. Furthermore, although the protocol was adopted in 2008, only three countries have ratified it. This is delaying its coming into force and implementation. The remaining member States were therefore urged to speedily ratify the protocol so that it becomes enforceable.

#### **Presentation and discussions on the Programme Performance of UNECA-SA, ECA Headquarters (Agenda item 6)**

44. The Director of UNECA-SA Office presented a report informing the meeting about the work of the

office. The Report documents the main activities undertaken and the results achieved during the biennium 2008-2009. The multi-year programme (MYP) of cooperation is a major instrument for programme delivery. The MYP objective is to strengthen capacity to formulate and harmonize policies to enhance regional integration. The focus during the year has been on macroeconomic and sectoral areas such as macroeconomic and institutional convergence, mining, gender, environment, ICT, and water and sanitation.

45. During the period 2008-2009, the activities of the SRO-SA centred on 4 key areas. First, the focus was on the ICE as the primary avenue for strategic engagement with member States and other stakeholders to provide guidance on emerging issues of relevance to the sub-region. In 2008-2009 the two issues addressed by the ICE are Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization, and Free Trade Area and Customs Union. Second, the office activities focused on analytical and policy oriented issues related to social integration, mining, macroeconomic and institutional convergence, and trans-boundary water development. The third area consisted of experience and knowledge sharing and capacity building through workshops, seminars, forum, expert meetings, and advisory services. And the fourth area was the field projects for institutional strengthening and support to SADC, development of regional gender monitoring tool, framework for mainstreaming regional integration in national development plans and SADC laws, and e-SADC initiative.

46. The highlights of the results from the above activities were measured against 3 sets of accomplishments as follows: first, was the enhanced capacity in which over 160 participants benefited from capacity building activities, including on contributions to mining, gender, mainstreaming of regional integration, national parliaments on ICT Master Plans and related knowledge management for IT managers. The second set was on strengthening partnerships, first, with RECs (SADC and COMESA), which featured high in the work programme of the SRO-SA through the MYP (with SADC). The office enhanced its collaboration with AU-SARO, DBSA, Eduardo Mondlane University and the SADC Commit-

tee of Central Bank Governors; and intensified its coordination with UN bodies (e.g. ILO and IOM), as well as boosted its support to the NEPAD and RECs. The third set was an improved networking among key stakeholders in which the ICE provided a platform for dialogue among various stakeholders, and a Policy Brief on issues emerging from the ICE for wider dissemination.

47. On challenges and lessons learned, she listed the former as (i) shortcomings in the reliability and comparability of statistics, (ii) difficulties in dissemination of reports and technical publications, and (iii) resource constraints and their effect on (i) operational activities, (ii) obtaining feedback from end-users, and (iii) partnership. On the lessons learned, she expressed value on partnerships for programme delivery, noting that partners leverage the work of UNECA-SA by providing synergistic resources, both expertise and financial, to extenuate the results achieved by the limited resource envelope of UNECA-SA.

48. The representative of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD) made a presentation on the highlights of the Centre's programme of work undertaken in 2009 and those being implemented in 2010. She indicated that the division's work focused on undertaking analytical research; monitoring commitments on gender equality and social development; knowledge sharing; advisory services; and capacity building. She said that in 2009 two regional Ministerial Review Conferences were held on the implementation of the (i) Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development – ICPD+15, and (ii) the Beijing Platform for action BPfA+15. The meeting was further informed that the review conferences adopted outcome documents that highlighted actions needed to be taken in order to accelerate the implementation of the commitments, in particular, the mainstreaming of population issues into development policies; sexual and reproductive health; maternal mortality; violence against women; gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS; climate change; women's empowerment; women, peace and security; participation in decision making; and financing for gender equality.

49. The ACGSD has compiled reports, available on ECA's website, which include: the African Wom-

en's Report 2009; African Youth Report 2009; Annual progress towards achieving the MDGs 2009; African Social Development Report 2009; ICPD +15 Africa Regional Review Report; and the Beijing Platform for Action + 15 Africa Regional Review Report.

50. The ACGSD has undertaken the following activities in 2010: strengthening capacities to promote social protection policies in African countries; the expansion of the African Gender and Development Index into 23 countries; time use surveys in 3 countries; women, food security and climate change; social impact of climate change focusing on health; enhancing national capacities to develop policies on sexual and reproductive health focusing on following up of the Maputo plan of action; promoting policies to reduce maternal mortality; mainstreaming population policies into development; African Youth Report 2011; Social Development Bulletin 2010; African Women's Report; Compendium of best practices in Gender mainstreaming – conflict resolution; and Human rights of women in Africa - violence against women.

51. The representative of the Economic Development and NEPAD Division (EDND) made a presentation on UN support to the AU and its NEPAD Programme. Since the UN system is large and at times fragmented, these call for deliberate coherence and synergy measures. Accordingly, in the context of UN Reform and based on the increasing demand for coordination expressed by African organizations, the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) was established to maximise the impact and effectiveness of the UN support.

52. The leadership of the RCM is at the highest level by the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN and that through its coordination role, ECA was able to strengthen coordination of UN support in Africa. The clusters and sub clusters are continuously mainstreaming cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth and climate change in their work. There is an increasing involvement of the various organizations of the African Union in the RCM.

53. The Sub regional Coordination Mechanism

(SRCM) has now been established in central Africa while those in eastern and southern Africa were in the process of being established. The SRCMs are expected to provide more focused, coordinated and coherent support to RECs on the basis of the priority needs of each sub region. The SRCMs are also expected to provide a linkage with UN activities taking place at the regional and national levels. The roles and responsibilities in the SRCM however need to be determined taking into account the comparative advantage of the SRCM members.

54. The representative of the Information, Science and Technology Division (ISTD) highlighted the division's work programme, which focuses mainly on improving the capacity of African countries to formulate and implement inclusive and gender-sensitive policies and strategies designed to harness information for development. The ICT policy status in Africa, regional activities, and capacity building activities in the sub-region were highlighted. The e-SADC project includes efforts to address issues such as e-applications (e.g. e-government, e-parliaments, e-commerce, e-education, e-health, e-agriculture, e-posts and content development). The project is now in the second phase and a status validation workshop is being planned. Some of the challenges faced by the project are:

- Limited stakeholder involvement;
- Provision of political leadership which is key for process effectiveness;
- Limited budget allocation for ICT & STI
- Inadequate policy implementation; and
- Inadequate ICT infrastructure;
- Need for awareness and political will to mainstream gender in STI policies;
- Promoting ICT, STI as a tool for regional integration;
- Need for R& D on emerging issues;
- Awareness in SDI & understanding of geo-information resources, and the importance of fundamental datasets to enable economic and social indicators to be mapped and visualized.

55. In the panel discussions, the Committee noted the need for sensitising member States on the importance of keeping abreast of ICT developments. The Committee further noted the low budgetary allocations in the member states. To this end, the Committee observed that the private sector's fi-

nancial contribution to ICT was not reflected. The overall financial outlay into the sector was therefore much more than is reflected in the report. The Committee stressed the need to extend ICT to the electronic preservation of indigenous knowledge. The Committee was informed that the Science and Technology section at the ECA was developing a platform to capture indigenous knowledge.

56. The Committee further expressed concern at the lack of implementation of ICT policies. One way of improving implementation was through improved stakeholder participation in policy making to enhance ownership of the policy process. The Committee further noted the need to mainstream ICT into climate change issues. It heard that ECA had established a climate change policy centre and that the environmental cluster of the RCM included climate change issues. Finally, the Committee urged member States to scale up budgetary allocations to the ICT sector, and speed up the implementation of ICT policies.

57. The Committee took note of all the reports presented by the UNECA Secretariat.

#### **Presentation of key recommendations from a Study Report on the Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) of Regional Integration (Agenda item 7)**

58. An ad hoc expert meeting held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 22-23 March 2010 made a number of general recommendations including on cross-cutting issues, and on the power and water sectors. Some of the specific recommendations included the following: (a) countries were urged to show their commitment to the regional projects at all the stages of implementation; (b) the design of the CBA methodology should allow each member State to gain an understanding of their individual cost and benefit arising from a regional infrastructure investment; (c) gender mainstreaming should be an integral prerequisite in infrastructure decision making and implementation; (d) where applicable, regional water infrastructure projects should be designed on multi-purpose basis with the collateral use across various economic sectors; and, (e) regional harmonization of the regulatory and legal

framework need to take priority.

59. In the ensuing discussions the Secretariat further informed the ICE meeting that the AEGM constituted a network to work with the consultants in finalizing the study. The network consists of the DBSA, Department of Water Affairs (South Africa), CSIR and ESKOM supported by the ECA-SA Secretariat. The full report of the AEGM will be available on the ECA website.
60. The meeting noted the report of the AEGM recommendations

### **Presentation and discussions on the work of Cooperating Partners in the sub-region (Agenda item 8)**

61. The presenter from the Cross-Border Traders Association highlighted their work program on the SADC and COMESA Free Trade Area and Free Movement of People Protocols and how its work fits with the broader agenda of SADC regional integration. The presentation brought out challenges of cross-border traders, especially in countries that do not belong to both COMESA and SADC regional economic communities.
62. The representative of the SARDC said that the Centre is a research and documentation institute based in Harare and Maputo. The Centre focuses on research on regional issues of gender, environment and climate change, regional integration and trade. The ICE participants were invited to visit the website [www.sardc.net](http://www.sardc.net) to get an appreciation of documents stored at the Centre.
63. The panel discussions centred on the lack of harmonization of trading regimes between COMESA and non-COMESA member States including the simplified trading regimes, involving training, awareness raising and opening of information desks at border posts. The Committee stressed the need to put a financial strategy in place that would address construction of markets for members, and build capacity. The discussions on harmonization of trading regimes also brought up information on the existing EAC-COMESA-SADC Tripartite Agreement. The second major issue arising from the presentations concerned the mobilization of local resources for development of markets for cross-border trade, enhancing facilities inclusive of acquisition of ware-

houses, as well as opening of bank accounts for better accountability of members operations. The Malawi-Mozambique-Zambia Growth Triangle Initiative was mentioned as an important governance issue in cross-border trade, and hence in its promotion of regional integration.

64. The representative from the Cross-Border Traders Association was advised to take note of problems that specifically confront women cross border traders. These problems are intensified by most women traders' lack of awareness about the removal of many non tariff barriers since the launch of the SADC Free Trade Area in August 2008. Furthermore, this lack of awareness has resulted in women traders being subjected to all forms of intimidations, and sometimes they are confronted with demands for financial bribes and sexual favours.

### **Date and venue of the next meeting (Agenda item 9)**

65. The Committee was informed about the decision to hold the Conference of Ministers, organ to which the ICE is supposed to report, in March, thus necessitating the organizing of the ICE meeting in the same month. Given the fact that March is the period during which countries in Southern Africa prepare their budgets, ECA-SA expressed its hope that this would not affect the attendance. The past ICE decision to take the venue to the country of the vice-chairperson was recalled. Namibia being the vice-chair for the 2010 ICE will be considered to host the next ICE to be held in March 2011.

### **Adoption of the report (Agenda item 10)**

66. The Committee adopted the report and the recommendations with anticipated changes.

### **Closure of the ICE Meeting (Agenda item 11)**

67. The Director thanked all the participants for their active and useful contributions during the three-day intense deliberations. She paid special thanks to the Government of the Republic of Malawi for hosting this ICE meeting despite



competing and heavy demands that the Government is facing. She also thanked the rapporteurs, interpreters, media, office staff and all the people that had worked to make the meeting a success. She emphasised UNECA-SA's strong desire to embrace and work with the media as partners in development. Finally, Ms. Kargbo, took the opportunity to bid farewell to the Committee on her imminent retirement from the UN. She expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the support the sub-regional governments, the RECs and other stakeholders have given her over the years.

68. The Chairperson of the 16th ICE Meeting joined the UNECA-SA Director in thanking all the delegates for their invaluable contributions. He congratulated the ECA for organising a successful ICE Meeting. The Chairperson stated that the ICE was an important platform for developing practical policy recommendations for member States in the sub-region. He urged delegates to take back the key recommendations that had emerged from the meeting to their principals and work out the necessary modalities to systematically reflect these in their own national development plans and programmes. He observed that countries in the sub-region were at different levels of development and that the recommendations should reflect this reality to be relevant and sustainable.
69. Finally, the Chairperson wished all the participants that had come from outside Malawi a safe passage back to their respective countries.
70. A vote of thanks was given by the delegate from Lesotho on behalf of delegates, saying the meeting was both educational and accomplished its mission to encourage cross-pollination of ideas across the sub-region. He concluded by saying that the meeting further helped to demystify some of the seemingly esoteric economic concepts – a achievement that has helped promote a participatory ICE meeting from all attendees.

# ANNEX 1

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